



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Trash – LA Board initiating more TMDLs – The LA Regional Board will be holding CEQA scoping hearings for the Calleguas Creek and Ventura River Estuary (December 5, 2006); Machado Lake, Legg Lake, and Pico Kenter Drain (December 6, 2006); and Elizabeth Lake, Munz Lake and Lake Hughes in the Santa Clara River Watershed (December 5). The Board notes that “Littering is a severe and recurring problem that impairs the beneficial uses of waters of the State in the Los Angeles Region.” The LA Region has 25 waterways or waterway segments on the 303(d) list as impaired by trash. The rest of the state has a total of 4 listings. The LA Board has interpreted their narrative water quality objectives to arrive at a numeric objective of 0 (zero) trash. Consequently, runoff must be treated so that no trash enters the listed waterways. Caltrans is currently installing GSRDs on the LA River and Ballona Creek to meet the requirements of the Trash TMDLs for these waterways (see *NewsFlash* 06-31).

Other Regional Boards have been reluctant to list for trash. For example, in 2001, the SF Board considered adding trash to the list of pollutants impairing Bay area creeks; however, they declined to list because of a lack of a consistent methodology to assess impairment by trash. If the other Regional Boards eventually interpret their narrative objectives in a similar manner to the LA Board, then many more waterways may become listed. LA TMDLs:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/updates_news.html#tmdl

Trash – Coast cleanup results – Sept 16th was the 22nd Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. 50,375 volunteers picked up 840,000 pounds of trash and 105,000 pounds of recyclable materials. At least one area reported that the amount of trash picked up was less than last year even with the same number of volunteers, possibly indicating that trash control messages are working. The most frequently picked up item is cigarette butts. Interestingly, much of the debris on the highway (weight basis) comes from trucks that don’t have their loads covered. Between 60 and 80% of the debris comes from inland areas with the rest coming from ocean-based sources: ships and marine dumping in other countries. <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/>

Upcoming

- **Public meetings: North Coast Stream & Wetlands System Protection Policy;** Nov. 27, 28, 30; <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/swspp.html> (see *NewsFlash* 06-27)
- **Annual California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup Workshop** – Nov. 29 & 30, UC Davis campus; contact James Harrington for flyer - (916) 358-2862, jharring@ospr.dfg.ca.gov or go to: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/academy/> Also see: www.dfg.ca.gov/cabw/cabwhome.html
- **Webcast - Alternative Practices for Highway Stormwater Management: Design, Construction and Maintenance, Part II** – by Izaak Walton League, Thursday, December 7; Includes discussion of porous asphalt overlays for water quality treatment; Register: <http://www.iwla.org/index.php?id=169> Archive of previous programs: www.iwla.org/sos/sosweb.htm

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>